



May, 1991

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FREE

New Middle School Head Faces Cuts, Challenges

By Stephanie Potter

With the latest round of massive State budget cuts, the Potrero Hill Middle School (PHMS) is facing tremendous challenges, but new Principal Judy Kell is ready to face them. With the same energy and enthusiasm that she undoubtedly displayed some 30-odd years ago as a cheerleader at Poly High, she remains upbeat and hopeful. "When faced with obstacles, you just have to figure out ways to get around them. The main thing is we're not going to give up," she insisted.

Although voters two years ago approved Proposition 98, guaranteeing schools 40 percent of the State budget, Governor Pete Wilson has threatened to suspend the measure in the face of the growing State budget crisis. This could mean a loss to the San Francisco Unified School District of \$22 million. The District budget is already down \$7 million, and the Middle School was dealt a major blow when preliminary lay-off letters were sent to half its staff. "That means 22 to 25 teachers out of a staff of 48. It's devastating," commented Kell. Some teachers may yet be able to hold their jobs, but there is no certainty and Kell said, "I

(Continued on Page 4)

PROUD HILL ARTISTS



Kiosk art works by Potrero Hill youngsters were officially dedicated by Mayor Art Agnos last month. The young artists L/R: Mister Allen, Austin Smith, Connie Jackson and George Sweeney, are flanked by artist Michael Rios, Agnos, and Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Executive Director Enola D. Maxwell. (See story on Page 8)

Ruth Passen photo

KEY CHANGES IN STORE

New Police Captain's Goal: "Improve Quality of Life"

By Cecily Burt

San Francisco Police Captain Rich Holder has settled in nicely at the Potrero Station, but don't get the idea he's resting on his laurels.

It seems as if Holder has his work cut out for him. The Potrero Station encompasses diverse communities, both geographically and economically, including some high crime areas. But Holder refuses to think of racial and socioeconomic differences as a problem. His main concern is how to bring groups together, not define what sets them apart.

Potrero residents have seen three or four captains pass through the station in the last few years. Holder had transferred to the Potrero station shortly before the new Chief of Police came on board and started shuffling everybody around. Holder was the only captain who did not get transferred.

Chief Willis Casey "has made a commitment to me," Holder said, "unless there's a catastrophe or something unusual, he'll let me stay here a couple of years, and hopefully I can get my programs started."

A couple of noteworthy changes are in store for Potrero Hill residents this summer. A city-wide redistricting plan and a beat cop plan will both go into effect on July 1.

Police district boundaries will be changed to make the workload among the

different police stations more equitable. The Potrero station is giving up the Sunnydale projects on the southeast side, and picking up the area past 16th Street down to Channel Street at China Basin. Instead of having Highway 101 as a boundary on the west side, the boundary will now be DeHaro Street.

Although Holder said he had "heard some Potrero residents are upset because the new plan will split the area" he noted that nobody had approached him yet on the matter. He said he intends to meet

with Potrero residents and pointed out that Oceanview residents had protested a plan to split their neighborhood and are now completely within the Taraval station jurisdiction.

The new Community Police on Patrol (CPOP) program is designed to get the police back on the streets, out of the cars, and in touch with the neighborhoods. "Five to 10 years ago we got in the habit of police in radio cars," Holder explained. "The goal of a two-minute response time was always stressed, and

we became aloof from the public."

The Potrero Station will have seven of the 51 beat areas throughout the city. Holder said competition for the CPOP positions was fierce even though it will be a very hard job. Four of the seven beat officers assigned to the Potrero Station are women.

CPOP officers must be responsible for the entire beat, not just the area patrolled on foot. They must respond to community needs, and that means attending all neighborhood meetings, usually on their own time. Holder said one CPOP officer will be assigned to the Potrero Hill area. "The officer will probably start patrolling 18th and 20th Streets, but will respond to what the community says we need to do," he explained. "We can't see everything, so we depend on feedback from the residents."

After transferring to the station eight months ago, the new captain started to brainstorm about ways to improve the quality of life for residents. He started ROSES (Residents of South East Sector), as a way to mobilize people from all the communities within the precinct.

"Look around, this is the oldest station house in the city," he said. "Northern station is new; the Ingleside and Richmond stations have been rebuilt. The difference is, those areas have a solid community power base, and we don't."

(Continued on Page 10)

INSIDE VIEW

Support Pays Off for Hill Library

- Page 3

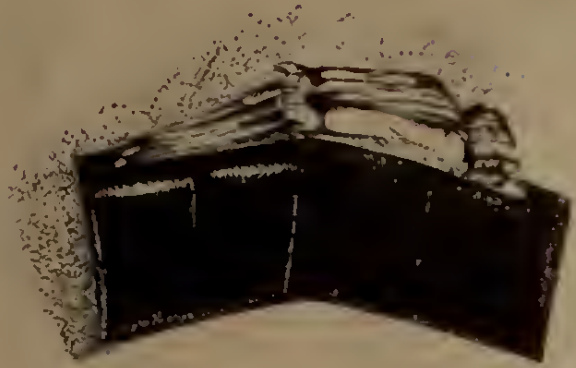
Planners Give OK to 18th & Arkansas

- Page 5

Exhibit Fetes Neighborhood Artists

- Page 9

LETTERS



IN OUR VIEW

Taxes: No Sale

This year, the State of California is facing an unprecedented budget crisis -- one that simply cannot be covered up as in years past with fiscal shell games and the usual gradual erosion of services to children, the poor, and those in need of health and social services.

Some have hailed the proposed budget "solution" offered by newly-elected Governor Pete Wilson as an innovative step, a mixture of service cuts and tax increases unexpected from a Republican state executive. But a close look at Wilson's proposals shows that they are simply a continuation of his predecessor's attack on the working people and middle class of this state -- as well as the poor, of course -- and deserve immediate and strong opposition.

With the state facing a budget deficit of anywhere between 12 and 15 billion dollars -- a staggering amount to comprehend -- it is clear to us that taxes must indeed be increased. But the method of taxation Wilson has chosen -- the sales tax -- is the most regressive form of raising revenue. It takes a far higher percentage of income from poor and working people than it does from the wealthy. And in a time when the state is already in a serious recession, a whopping one and one-quarter cent total sales tax increase could further hurt retail sales and swell the ranks of the jobless.

Working men and women should not be forced to bear the major brunt of higher taxes while major corporations and the top 10 percent of taxpayers -- who control more than 40 percent of the state's income -- remain virtually untouched.

There is a progressive alternative for taxation in the state, and there is no better time than the present crisis to implement it. Restoring the top state income tax bracket -- which was cut in 1987 from 11 percent to 9.3 percent -- would raise more than \$1.3 billion per year from families with incomes over \$200,000. Setting the corporate tax at the same rate would raise \$900 million per year.

Taxing the profits sheltered in the net operating loss carry-forward would yield another \$500 million every year. Closing the loophole in Prop 13 that allows major corporations to evade reassessment of their property would raise a full \$2 billion per year. A securities transfer tax, such as exists in other states, could raise \$1 billion. Other measures, such as an oil severance tax and closure of other capital gains loopholes, could raise \$800 million.

Wilson's budget plan contains a number of other elements that may look promising at first glance but are extremely dangerous once you look closely. His proposal to transfer a number of mental health services -- along with some funds -- to county jurisdictions is being greeted by many county officials as a welcome infusion of needed money. The Governor would like to see the counties have flexibility about how they would provide those services, or whether they would seek additional sales taxes to augment the state revenues they will receive.

Most counties clearly do not have the kind of facilities and services currently operated by the state to provide for the mentally ill. And if some counties choose not to match the state's level of services, the people who need them would be on their streets, or would end up going to an urban county such as San Francisco that is known for having an array of services for the mentally ill.

The time is now to let your Legislators know just how inequitable and dangerous Wilson's budget plan is. Tell your elected officials to say 'NO' to the Governor's scheme and say 'YES' to a program for raising revenue that places the burden on those who can afford to shoulder it.

Unhappy Ending

Editor:

A few issues ago your writer Peter Firth covered the tenants-in-common controversy and the happy ending for a long-time Hill resident. I believe that the story didn't stop there and that Mr. Womack, the story's hero, has been booted out of the building for non-payment of mortgages.

I think the Potrero View's readers are owed a follow-up story, and not just "happy" stories with one-sided points of view.

Michael Johnson
Arkansas Street

PETER FIRTH RESPONDS: The August 1990 article about an elderly, impoverished Hill resident facing eviction from her home of 36 years is a story without a happy ending for anyone. Jenny Butero still faces eviction, and Chris Womack, the "hero" of the story, will lose his life savings and faces bankruptcy if an arbitrator's judgment against him is upheld in court. At least one of the partners has moved out of the building, and everyone involved in this venture has surely suffered both emotionally and financially.

The article underscored that tenancies-in-common are shaky alliances at best. When strangers come together in what is probably the greatest financial gamble up to that point in their lives, the trust is tenuous and the partnership can quickly erode into "I better look out for myself." This is what happened on Connecticut Street and is likely in other tenancies-in-common as well.

The City of Berkeley has placed a one year moratorium on tenancies-in-common conversions because they almost always involve dwindling affordable rental stock. San Francisco Supervisors recently passed Supervisor Terence Hallinan's proposal to require each tenant-in-common of a group to purchase no less than 25 percent of a building if evictions are involved. This essentially limits such conversions to four units or less unless it's a vacant building.

But the warnings are clear. Anyone considering such an association of convenience should ask if they would put all their savings into starting a business partnership, or taking off on a long journey in a small boat, with a group of complete strangers.

Peter Firth

Not Potrero Commons

Editor:

We who are working actively to keep as open land the old railroad tunnel cut behind Potrero Middle School wish our neighbors and supporters to know that we consider current promotion of "Potrero Commons" misleading (to say the least).

"Potrero Commons," as the organizational entity to which we belonged, ceased to exist in January, 1991 when one of the members, who had arranged its non-profit umbrella, managed to take over the accounts without the knowledge or consent of the chairmen, treasurer, or steering council. Because this person continues to use the name "Potrero Commons," we wish to publicly disassociate ourselves.

However, our efforts in behalf of the land have continued, and now we face a new battle. We intend to wage this battle under a new name. Anyone who wishes to aid us financially should reserve contributions until they can be made to a properly constituted treasury. An announcement is about to be mailed to everyone on our list; if you wish to receive this notice, and your name is not already on the list, call Mary Friedland at 648-1198.

The representation made in the name of "Potrero Commons" by this person before the Planning Commission hearings hurt the cause of open space more than any argument the builder himself could have made, not only in our opinion, but also in the opinion of commissioners and of environmental allies. Nevertheless, the fight to prevent issuance of a conditional use permit nearly succeeded: we credit that near victory in large part to the acumen, dedication and initiative of Fritz Maytag.

We would like everyone to be aware that all money from the sale and distribution of Potrero Commons Ale rests in a trust account to be used as intended: to purchase land and retain it as open space.

We urge everyone to join us in continuing effort to rescue the environmentally and educationally valuable 18th and Arkansas Street site from burial beneath condominiums. The present exploitation of the name "Potrero Commons" is a parody, or a perversion, of what we meant by it. Look for the update to be mailed under our new name!

Mary Friedland (formerly co-chairman, Potrero Commons), Jean Neblett (formerly treasurer, Potrero Commons); Barbara Deutsch, Paula Grace and Kristen Makita (former members of the steering council).

Learning About Jobs

Editor:

I am 15 years old and was born in Vietnam. During my childhood, I lived with my mother and a brother and one sister. My father died before I was born. My mother worked as a nurse in a hospital but didn't make much money, so my mother sent us to live with different relatives. Well, it so happened that when I was seven or eight, news came to me that my mother died in a car accident. Her death changed my life forever. My grandmother was old and couldn't afford to raise us so she sent my sister and me to America.

Once in America, I began to have a new life, starting over in a new country. For several years I lived happily in my childish years, enjoying my life and not worrying about my future. But when I got to the 8th grade I realized that I needed some cash to go out with my friends. It occurred to me that my guardian was not going to provide me with all the money I needed, and anyway she wanted me to go out and find myself a decent job. I thought she must be kidding. I mean, where can an eighth grader with no skills whatsoever go out and find a job? She must be kidding I thought.

(Continued on Page 3)



Masthead design by
Giacomo Patri

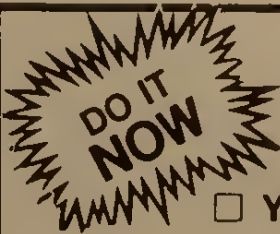
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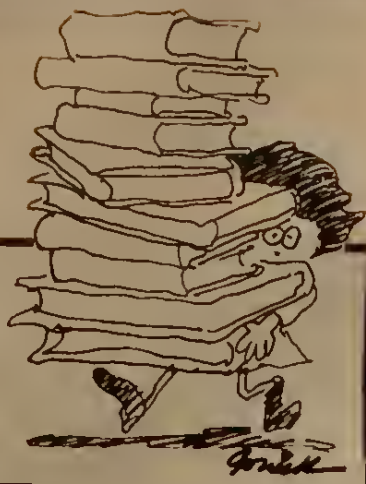
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LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. 285-3022

Closed Monday
Tuesday 10-12 and 1-6pm
Wednesday 1-9pm
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 1-6pm



Thanks to all the support from Hill residents, Potrero's budget cut was less severe than originally proposed. Potrero will not be a reading center, but will lose one librarian, to become a one-librarian branch.

Probably that librarian will be new, since I am not a children's librarian and Cathy is not in a supervising librarian classification. Hours will be reduced somewhat, and book budgets might be slightly reduced. Changes will take place in July-August, and I will keep you posted as I have more information.

All of you who worked so hard circulating petitions, attending and speaking at meetings, and writing letters can congratulate yourselves on a successful effort. Reduction to a reading center would have been a drastic loss in library service to the Hill, and I am pleased that your voices were heard and the library was able to find a better solution.

The library system is still in trouble, since the City budget requires even larger cuts, which will be taken from management, support services, and technical services.

These are complicated cuts to explain in terms of what library services will be lost, since you don't see library staff working on the budget, grants, special orders, statistics, accounting, book repair or developing plans for the direction of the book collection.

You may notice that we don't have cards in the catalog for the library's new books. You may be inconvenienced if our circulation computer breaks down due to lack of maintenance. But for the most part, like grants, we won't miss or even know about what we're not getting. It is a sad deterioration of our library system, however.

The subject of volunteers has come up on several occasions, and the annual art show, which is currently on display in the branch, will be one activity which will need volunteer help. It would be a shame not to continue the show, since it has been the City's longest running library art exhibit. The library will be organizing a committee in January, and if you are interested in working on the show, let me know and I'll pass along your name.

Don't miss this year's art show — it closes May 11. See you at the library! ... for awhile, at least ...

Kay Roberts
Branch Librarian

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 2)

Once we moved to Potrero Hill, I started hanging out at the Neighborhood House and found out about the after-school jobs program. From this program I was trained to be prepared for high school and college. I was taught job manners and how to fill out an application and a resume. I have learned many things about careers while I worked and earned money. I am hoping there will be more different worksites like the Police Station, the Fire Department, the pet store and pharmacy.

Quang Do
Dakota Street

The Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP), provides middle and high school students with a couple

Following fast on the heels of the adult art show is the children's art show. This one will open Saturday, May 18 with a reception at 2 p.m. Storyteller Belinda Sullivan will be on hand to help celebrate. Balloons and goodies will also be available for all young artists.

To enter the art show, children must be 13 years old or under and either live or attend school on Potrero Hill. Each child may enter one work of art in any medium in the show. Their art work needs to be received by Wednesday, May 15. Please feel free to bring your child's art work in to the library anytime before May 15. Last year's show really rivaled the adult one.

Movies for pre-schoolers will be shown on Tuesday, May 14 at 9:15 and 10 a.m. This show will include: "Banana, Banana, Banana Slugs," "Butterfly Ball," and "The Snowy Day."

Please don't come to the infant/toddler lapsit, pre-school or family storytime during the week of May 7-11, as I will be on vacation. Otherwise, the infant/toddler lapsit (for 0-3 yr olds) will meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., pre-school storytime (for 3-5 yr olds) will meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and family storytime (for all ages) will meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Cathy Nyhan
Children's Librarian

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Muni \$4.50
Youth Muni \$5.00
Senior BART \$1.60

For more information
- call 826-8080

hours of work experience after school. The program is operated by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and funded through the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Their Families. The above letter was written by one of the participants. For information on the program, contact Gina Graves at 826-8080.



TEN YEARS AGO
In The View

PATHWAY DEBATE

According to the May, 1991 edition of the VIEW, a "25-year-old controversy" was "re-kindled" by a public hearing about the 19th Street pathway between Rhode Island and De Haro Streets. The Streets and Transportation Committee of the SF Board of Supervisors was reviewing plans to construct concrete steps on the path at an estimated cost of \$86,000. Citizens arguing for an easier way to negotiate the steep dirt and gravel pathway were at odds with property owners along the course of the path. The latter wanted "to avoid creating a hangout for graffiti artists and other undesirables." However, the debate appeared to be stalemated because it looked like there was no money to make the stairs even if they were approved.

Still no money. Still no stairs. So what else is new?

POTRERO HILL LAWYER HONORED

Ten years ago Rhode Island Street's Doris Brin Walker was honored by the National Lawyers Guild at a testimonial dinner hosted by Jessica Mitford. Walker was honored for her long dedication to "progressive social causes" as "a union organizer, a civil rights activist, and the first woman president of the National Lawyers Guild,

POTRERO ARTS FEATURED

A "Potrero Arts" feature offered news of the Hill's artists. Jean Halpert-Ryden was given a 25-year retrospective by the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art; Blanche Phillips Howard was also featured at a retrospective exhibit, hers at the Concourse Gallery of Bank of America's World Headquarters. The issue also sadly noted that two loved and honored Hill artists had recently died — Benjamin Vaganov and Lucy ("Suzy") Coons.

The arts coverage was in honor of the opening of the 26th annual Potrero Hill Artists Show held at the local branch library.

(This year marks the 36th showing of our much-praised library show. Will cuts in library funding make it the last?)

—Arden Arnautoff



Trainees of the San Francisco Conservation Corps repaired, refinished and built additional adjuncts to the childcare play area of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, and to the Mini Park (on Southern Heights) in April. The "Nabe" was granted the work under special arrangements with the City and the Conservation Corps.

Ruth Passen photo

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Ongoing Neighborhood House Community Meetings

Omega Boys Club - Full Meetings	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:30 PM
Omega Weekly Meetings	Every Tuesday	7:30 PM
Potrero Hill Girls Club	Mondays	5:00 - 7:00 PM
Student Study Hall	Tuesdays	5:00 - 7:00 PM
Youth Council Meetings	Wednesdays	6:00 PM
AI - Anon	Thursdays	6:30 - 7:30 PM
Alcohol Anonymous	Sun, Mon, & Thurs	8:30 PM
Cocaine Anonymous	Saturdays	6:00 - 7:00 PM

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House offers ongoing programs for developmentally disabled adults which include basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer & health education, field trips, sensomotor development, work training, group and individual counseling.

Senior Citizens enjoy hot meals every weekday at a nominal charge. Continuing senior programs include bingo games, information & referral counseling, social hour, games & recreation.

The "NABE" provides facilities & meeting space for use by community groups, individuals and businesses. These facilities include the auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and wedding receptions.

Child care is available at the Child Development Center and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre produces scheduled performances throughout the year. Other community facilities include a mini-park, Arts & Crafts classes, Photography workshops and classes, a gymnasium and recreational space plus a bulletin board with job and event listings.

All Services and Activities FREE • Member, United Way of the Bay Area

Middle School Principal Rallies to Face Cutbacks

(Continued from Page 1)

won't know who the staff is until late summer."

If Proposition 98 is suspended and the \$22 million cut goes through, the Middle School faces an entire period being cut out of each school day. The children would still get their basic instruction in English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Physical Education, but the sixth period elective courses for next year would all be eliminated. That would mean no more classes in such subjects as music, art, shop and literature enrichment.

Along with San Francisco School Superintendent Ramon Cortines, Kell intends that any money-saving measures be kept as far from the classes as possible. For instance, she hopes that the class sizes can remain in the low twenties, although she admits that she may end up losing administrators and counselors.

Kell had taught elementary classes for 20 years, and was selected by reform-minded teachers at Hawthorne Elementary School to help them re-establish a decent environment for education, prior to Potrero Hill. Under her leadership, the school's squalid slum-like conditions were cleaned up, and within four years the school was a model for bilingual education and instruction for hearing-impaired children.

As the new Principal this year at the Middle School, Kell has been focusing on team building and morale boosting, and the cuts have not made her job any easier. But the dedication demonstrated by the staff is helping to offset the disastrous budget news, she stressed. "I can't believe these people," Kell marveled. "They're wonderful! Despite the lay-off notices, they're still going on, being professional and making plans for students and programs for next year."

Likewise, the staff members seem to appreciate her efforts. One teacher who received a lay-off notice commented, "So far she's great. She's shown a lot of support for us as staff." Johnnie Spearmon, a teacher in Special Education and also slated to be laid off, noted that Kell is working hard to keep the staff together. Math teacher Jo Ann Vail was especially disappointed because "things are finally getting together, and now half the staff is laid off. It's really a shame." The school has five Math teachers. Three received lay-off notices, including Vail.

Kell is making every effort to keep the staff informed and to include them in basic decisions. Everyone is kept abreast of the latest events through frequent meetings and the daily staff bulletin. Kell is also encouraging parents to become more involved with their children's efforts in school, and to participate in school activities and events. She recognizes, however, that their lives are often harried, and asks them only to "try" to find the time to help out.

"The word 'try' can be used for the parents, but it's not good enough for the kids," Kell emphasized. "I refuse to compromise. Our kids are in competition with the kids in Hillsborough. I've seen that there can be a tendency for people to expect less from urban kids, but the world is not separated and we have to ensure that they can compete."

Academic achievement is a high priority with Kell, and grade point averages have been rising this year. A crowning achievement has been the high number of Middle School students accepted at UC/Berkeley's summer Academic Talent Development Program. There will be 23 students from PHMS, and 15 of those will be on full scholarships. "We represent one third of the kids who've been accepted, and that's more children than from any other Middle School," the Principal noted.



These Middle School staff are among the 27 who received preliminary layoff notices in the current budget crisis.

Lester Zeidman photo


Kell is also attempting to work with the local community. The Middle School held a special event last month for friends and neighbors of the school to meet with the new Principal, and an ongoing invitation has been extended for those interested to visit and see how the school operates. Kell would especially encourage neighbors who have complaints about truant kids to identify themselves. Kell says she makes a point of checking out any complaints, and often the kids in question do not come from the Middle School. She experiences frustration when the callers are anonymous: "there is no way to get back to them."

When Kell started at the PHMS, she was pleased to find an old Poly High classmate, Ronald Cabral, working as her Assistant Principal. Back in '56 and '57, "I was a baseball player and a hot rodder, looking at girls," he recalled. "I don't think she noticed me. She was a big shot

— class officer, straight A student, editor of the school paper, cheerleader. She was a brain, and I had a ducktail, and "I never expected we'd be working together. She is still a great leader, and I really like working for her. We were lucky to get her."

Whereas Cabral was into James Dean, Kell admitted that "I liked Pat Boone." Despite her excellent achievements in high school, her counselor had to make a personal visit to her father to persuade him to let her attend college. "My dad said, 'If I send her to college who's going to marry her?'" Kell remembered.

Despite her father's concerns, Kell did manage to get married, and now has four children of her own, three daughters and one son. Two are grown and two are still of Middle School age — 11 and 14, helping her to be more sympathetic to the plight of parents: "As a parent, I relate," she smiled.



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City Ok's 18th & Arkansas Project -- With Conditions

By Judy Baston

Addition of a host of changes and conditions led to a close 4-3 Planning Commission vote April 11 to approve a conditional use permit for the controversial plan to build affordable artists' live/work spaces and market rate condominiums on the vacant land at 18th and Arkansas Streets.

Commissioners Sue Bierman, Norman Krasik, James Morales and Edward Sewell voted to grant the permit. Romaine Boldridge, Douglas Ingman and Wayne Jackson III voted in opposition.

During three previous, heated public hearings on the project, it had been clear that what support existed on the Commission for the project came because of the affordable housing that would be provided. Two key conditions expanded and strengthened the affordability guarantee.

Questions had been raised in earlier testimony about a major financing gap between the financial resources provided by the City and developer Rick Holliday and the total cost of the artists' space. Although the Art Space Development Corp. (Arts Deco) indicated the gap could be spanned by state financing or tax credit resources, the Commission insisted on an arrangement that would ensure that the market rate condos could not be built until the affordable live/work spaces were also under construction.

"Prior to the issuance of any building permits," the Commission required that developer Holliday must demonstrate to the Planning Department and the Commission "that the affordable artist live/work units are 100 percent financed and said financing shall be available at the time the construction is scheduled to begin." In addition, the Commission required that Holliday "must secure all permits and begin construction for the Arts Deco live/work space prior to or simultaneously with the residential condominium development."

No certificate of occupancy will be issued for the condos until the artists' live/work spaces are completed and all

certificates of occupancy issued for those units, the Commission required. The affordability of the artists' units would be guaranteed for a minimum of 50 years through an agreement with the City.

In addition, the Commission required that Holliday will designate 10 percent of the condo units -- 6 of 61 -- as "affordable to households with income that does not exceed 120 percent of median." This, noted Tom Jones of the Mayor's Office of Housing, would probably include purchase prices in the range of \$120,000 - \$140,000, rather than the average of \$240,000-\$260,000 that developer Holliday had quoted for the market rate condos.

Those six units would be guaranteed to be permanently affordable, the Commission ensured. "Procedures for and restrictions on the sale, resale or rental of the designated 'affordable' units of the project shall be in accordance with the guidelines and procedures currently in effect and adopted by the Mayor's office of Housing. The restrictions shall remain in effect for the life of the project," the Commission decreed.

Towards the end of the marathon hearing process, a number of objections had been raised to the proposed project on the grounds that it would be incompatible with surrounding light industrial uses.

Two conditions attempted to deal with this concern.

Design revisions for the 18th Street frontage of the project will now be required to "impart an industrial character" as "residential loft" units that will be "designed and marketed as housing that appeals to renters and/or buyers that desire proximity to active industrial uses."

In addition, the Commission required a disclosure statement to be signed by all condo buyers "that the project when approved was built on property zoned M-1 (Manufacturing-Light Industrial), that the project is a transitional project between industrial use to the north and residential use to the south, that industrial use and the jobs they represent are important to San Francisco, and that industrial use,

REMEMBERING THE BIG ONE



Longtime Potrero Hill resident Ellie Baine (right of sign) with fellow 1906 Earthquake survivor Mary MacFarlan (left and right of sign) and Baine's nieces (L/R) Elizabeth Worthington and Ellie Lee Olsen. In February, 1906 Baine had just celebrated her eighth birthday. Two months later she experienced the loss of birthday gifts and of everything her family owned, as the unprecedented earthquake and fire destroyed her South of Market home and hundreds of other San Francisco residents' homes. Today, at 93, she is revered as a "survivor" of that historic event. To remember the April 18, 1906 earthquake, the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District treated 60 remaining survivors with a commemorative ride on the Bay aboard the Golden Gate Ferry "San Francisco."

Ruth Passen photo

by its very nature, is often noisy, odorous, may operate continuously seven days a week on a 24 hour basis, and that industrial use generates truck, rail and other forms of traffic, and may generate other circumstances and conditions that may be considered by some people as offensive to residential use."

Before the industrial proximity argument had been used as a key reason for opposition to the project, many Hill residents had urged that the entire area be kept as open space.

Developer Holliday had discussed plans to acquire access rights from the San Francisco Unified School District to utilize as open space for the general public the property on 19th Street which is adjacent to the project.

The Commission required that "should the rights be acquired and/or easements granted," Holliday shall be responsible for development, liability and maintenance of the property." It was also required that a design plan for this space shall be

developed by Holliday "with community input."

If Holliday is prevented from getting the easement for the School District land, prior to the issuance of the first certificate of occupancy, he must "contribute \$30,000 for development and/or improvement or recreation and/or community service programs on Potrero Hill."

Many open space advocates on the Hill are not satisfied with the Planning Commission decision, and may indeed be planning possible action to overturn it. "A lot of different people in the area are unhappy with the decision," noted Mary Friedland, who had testified at the Commission against the plan. "I expect more than one group of people will file signatures to appeal the decision."

It takes signatures representing a percentage of the property ownership within 300 feet of the project to file an appeal at the Board of Supervisors. Such an appeal must be filed within 30 days of the Planning Commission decision.

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Hill Teen "Rollers" Home from LA With Team of Park Skate Patrollers

By Vas Arnautoff

You'd think that if a group of young people put together a spectacular project for a worthy cause, the local media would take note. Even if it was raining. Think again.

When Potrero Hill teen John Sullivan and his teammates, which included three women, rolled into San Francisco on their skates at 11 a.m. on March 23, they'd completed a 48-hour trek from Los Angeles City Hall. Of that time, about 37 hours was actual skating time. The purpose? In Sullivan's words: "To raise peoples' consciousness against crack cocaine."

The project, a brainchild of David Miles, 35, and sponsored by the Cryptonic Wheels Co., which manufactures skate wheels, was the fourth such skate trip undertaken by the Golden Gate Park Volunteer Skate Patrol in the last 11 years. Miles heads up the Patrol and it's his conviction that a wholesome, highly

visible family activity such as skating can be used effectively to promote worthwhile causes.

The Skate Patrol itself is an Explorer Post of the Boy Scouts of America — the Explorers being the urban alternative to the more conventional Norman Rockwell vision of scouting in which knot-tying and camping seem predominant. The Patrol was established in 1979 when the S.F. Recreation and Park Department realized it had some problems on its hands with the boom in roller skating that came about when auto traffic was banned in the eastern end of Golden Gate Park on Sundays.

Members of the Patrol, all trained in First Aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), monitor the Sunday rollers, offering help and advice and tending to the occasional injuries. They range in age from 13 to 40.

At noon on March 21 the Patrol members left Los Angeles with a nice sendoff. Arsenio Hall had mentioned them on his T.V. show and local radio gave them a plug. With one van leading and one follow-

ing (both emblazoned with anti-drug messages), teams of three skaters took shifts of one hour on, three hours off, for the entire trip north. Not permitted on freeways, the group used secondary roads, which added maybe 75 miles to what might have been a 350-mile jaunt.

"At first you're jazzed," remembers Sullivan. "You're excited, so you don't go to sleep on your time off. Then, after your second or third shift . . ." The toughest segment of the trip for him was being awakened at 3:30 a.m. Friday to skate into Fresno, "putting on cold, wet skates, a cold jacket. . ."

There were other unpleasant memories — a bumpy 500-meter long bridge, a five-mile stretch of rough road, being harassed by dogs — but the exhilaration at having completed the course obviously outweighs the memories of the tough patches. And being an athlete at Sacred Heart High School, where he participates in track and football, obviously helps too.

Would he do it again? "Yeah! I wouldn't say it was easy, but it wasn't as hard as I thought it would be." In fact, Sullivan says, there's some talk of doing a round trip next time.

The 15-year-old Potrero Hill skater was one of three juniors (under 18) on the adventure and Miles says the trio "was an inspiration to the whole group. Each member of the team logged 16 or 17 miles on each one hour shift, sometimes hitting up to 30 m.p.h. on downhills, and the trip went so well that the group stayed over



Hill skater John Sullivan with his well-traveled wheels. Vos Arnautoff photo



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9:00 — 10:00 Salsa Lesson & Practice
10:00 — 12:00 Ballroom Dancing

May 17
8:00 — 9:00 Tango Lesson & Practice
9:00 — 10:00 Cha Cha Lesson & Practice
10:00 — 12:00 Ballroom Dancing

May 24
8:00 — 9:00 Viennese Waltz Lesson & Practice
9:00 — 10:00 Hustle Lesson & Practice
10:00 — 12:00 Ballroom Dancing

May 31
8:00 — 9:00 Waltz Lesson & Practice
9:00 — 10:00 Rumba Lesson & Practice
10:00 — 12:00 Ballroom Dancing

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Another attempt is being launched to rename Jackson Park for Tony Lazzeri, the Potrero District's New York Yankees baseball star of the 1930s. Former Hill resident Tony Stratta is heading up the drive and asks all those interested to get in touch with him at 566-0616. His address is 2637-31st Ave., S.F. 94116. One of the two diamonds is now named for the legendary Lazzeri, but Stratta feels the Potrero native deserves greater recognition.

Celebrating the performing and visual arts talents of the Bay Area's young people, the Fifth Annual Imagination Celebration/A Festival of San Francisco's Young Artists is being held in Golden Gate Park through May 11. Free outdoor events, choral and instrumental music and dance performances, arts activities and a multitude of indoor performances and exhibitions are expected to draw up to 15,000 participants and spectators. More information from the Festival Hotline at 664-1680.

Artist Carlos Loarca attacks the notion that "painting is something of the past" in an exhibition running through May 18 at the SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan St. Loarca, the 1990/91 recipient of the California Arts Council Visual Arts Fellowship, here displays three monumental works of his "Yellow Painting Series." Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m.

A free treatment and counseling program is available for those with cocaine problems. The Stimulant Treatment Outpatient Program (S.T.O.P.) at San Francisco General Hospital offers outpatient treatment and counseling for users of cocaine and other stimulants. Any individual is eligible for the S.T.O.P. program. Call 821-8764 or 821-5451 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays. Evenings, weekends and holidays call 821-5451.

Event '91/Circo della Terra (Circus of the Earth), a magical, theatrical, musical performance featuring over 500 San Francisco children, will be performed May 18 at 2 p.m. at Stern Grove. The production is free and the kids will be joined on stage by members of the City's own Make*a* Circus and children from the Pickle Family Circus School. More info at 771-1718.

Hill artist Laura Parker is exhibiting her pastels at Le Trou, 1007 Guerrero St., through May 18. The show is titled "More Pears: An Exploration of Form." Also on exhibit are photographs by Deborah Jones. Call 550-8169.

Providing what they call "the best comedy never written," Bay Area Theatre-sports, an ensemble of local improvisational performers present three "Spring Training" shows May 13 and 20 at the New Performance Gallery, 3153-17th St. The admission for the 8 p.m. mock comedy competitions is \$7. Call 824-8220 for reservations.



The Arts Commission of San Francisco has officially proclaimed May 11-18 as "Mural Awareness Week" co-sponsored by the Precita Eyes Muralists Assn. and the "MUROS" Exhibition Committee. During the week a host of activities will celebrate the City's heritage of monumental mural art, past and present, and the current release of the new book "San Francisco Murals," by Tim Drescher. In addition there will be daily mural walks and tours, a mural symposium, exhibitions and opportunities to meet muralists. More information at 285-2287.

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will present its 26th Annual Book Sale at Fort Mason Center from May 30-June 2. The event opens with a preview sale and silent auction from 4-7 p.m. Free to members of the Friends, the preview is open to the public for a tax-deductible donation of \$15. There is no admission charge for the sale itself which will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 31, and June 1, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. Further info, 557-4257.

When Spain's Federico Garcia Lorca was executed by the fascists in the early days of the Spanish Civil War, the world of literature lost an eloquent playwright and poet. "Lorca at Viznar," a fictional treatment of his last few hours, written and directed by Diana Saenz, is opening at Theatre Rhinoceros Friday, May 17. A preview will be presented Thurs., May 16. The show runs through June 9. The theatre is at 2926-16th St. Call 861-5079 for more info.

The San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) will hold its first public hearing on Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at the old State of California building, 455 Golden Gate Ave. in Room 1194. BAC, a creation of the Board of Supervisors, is soliciting ideas from the public about what is needed to improve bicycling in San Francisco.

The Seventh Annual Visitation Valley Arts Festival, Street Fair and Parade will be held May 18 from 10-4:30 p.m. Entertainment, food, contests and prizes at the Raymond Street Fair site.

San Francisco State's Computer-Assisted Registration (CAR) mail-in deadline for the fall 1991 semester has been moved up a week to July 22. Students interested in financial aid should apply as soon as possible. For information on financial aid call 338-1581; on registration call 338-2350.

Footwork Dancers' Group and Bay Area Choreographers Emma Lou Huckabay, Cathleen McCarthy and Barbara Susco present "Life After Birth" at Footwork, 22nd and Mission Streets May 10 and 11 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 with discounts for students and seniors.

Hardback Theater's production of the Sam Shepard/Joseph Chaikin play "Tongues," which is described as "a howl into life from the threshold of death," is currently running at the SOMAR Theater, 934 Brannan St. through May 18. Showtime is 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are \$9/general and \$6/students and seniors, though the theater states that "no one will be turned away for lack of funds." Reservations and info at 649-7456.

The Zen Center Hospice Volunteer Program has announced its Spring '91 volunteer caregivers training program. The organization is dedicated to providing those who are close to death with physical, emotional and spiritual support so that they and their loved ones can better focus on spending their remaining time together in whatever way best suits their needs. Training for volunteers begins May 15 and those interested are asked to call 863-2910.

Pow! Zoom! Good Grief! Whack! The Cartoon Art Museum invites comics fans to celebrate Cartoon Art Appreciation Week (CAAW) May 5-11. On May 11 Morris Turner, creator of the integrated strip "Wee Pals," will appear as guest artist at the museum from 1-4 p.m. That's at 665 Third St. near Townsend. Phone 546-9481.

Free prostate cancer screening is now being offered by the S.F. VA Medical Center for veterans and non-veterans on Mondays from 9-noon. For information or an appointment phone 750-2103.

Friends of the Urban Forest offers its 1991 series of free walking tours through eight San Francisco neighborhoods. Each tour is designed to highlight the relationship between the natural and cultural character of the neighborhood. The first walk tours Golden Gate Park, and the next will examine the Panhandle. Following walks will be on the Embarcadero, Parnassus Heights, Buena Vista Heights, Dolores Park, Filbert Street Steps and Russian Hill. For dates and times call 543-5000.

The comedy, "Housekeeper," by James Pridemore, opens May 17 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre, 953 De Haro St., and plays Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. through June 8. The play is directed by Joe Weatherby and features local actors. General admission is \$9. Call the box office 839-9271 for info.

Registration for the Senior Citizens' Getaway to Camp Mather, the City's Sierra mountain camp will be held May 11 at 8 a.m. for singles and couples and at 10 a.m. for groups of three or more at McLaren Lodge at Golden Gate Park. The get-away will take place the week-end of June 10-14. Call 666-7043 for more info.

The S.F. Sheriff's Department Eviction Assistance Program is currently profiled in the March/April 1991 issue of the "Sheriff," the magazine of the National Sheriff's Association. Created by Sheriff Michael Hennessey in 1980, the program has over the past 10 years helped over 10,000 evictees and landlords deal with the trauma and pain of eviction.

Four films will have their West Coast theatrical premieres this month at the Roxie Cinema, 3117-16th St. (at Valencia). "Echoes of Conflict" three short dramatic stories of Israeli life in the shadow of the Palestinian uprising will be shown Friday, May 10 through May 16. On May 17 "Reunion," starring Jason Robards starts a seven day run. Call 863-1087 for times.



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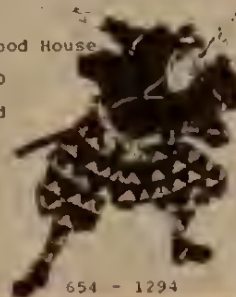
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Diane Wosnak, the Pickle Family Circus' Clown Pino is currently on tour with the company through the eastern United States during the Spring and Summer season. The company will return to their home base on Potrero Hill for the rest of their season, and their annual holiday show in December.

Terry Loront photo

EUREKA NEWS

The long awaited world premiere of Tony Kushner's two part "Angels in America" will open this month at the Eureka Theatre. The ambitious project was commissioned by the Eureka in 1987. The first of the two complete plays, entitled "The Millennium Approaches" will open May 24, followed on May 31 by a "minimalistic" presentation of the just-completed "Perestroika." The cycle will run thru July 7. Call the theatre, 558-9898, for the complete schedule which includes some weekend matinees and some "double headers." Previews begin May 14.



Hill Youngsters' Art Work Adorn City Bus Kiosks

By Ruth Passen

Some Potrero Hill youngsters had the pleasure of seeing their art works transposed from paper to huge posters displayed in kiosks at Fox Plaza at a dedication hosted by Mayor Art Agnos and the San Francisco Arts Commission April 19.

The Hill children, part of an arts program at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, submitted individual and group work to the Arts Commission who, in turn, chose those works to be used in new sidewalk kiosks in the city-sponsored art program. St. Dominic's School students were also chosen for their works.

One four by six foot poster designed by Mister Allen records his version of downtown buildings affected by the 1989 earthquake, set against the Golden Gate Bridge. Another poster - a group rendering of a huge lion-like animal - was painted by Allen, Connie Jackson, Anthony "Red" Johnson, Allen Smith, George Sweeney, Austin Smith, Dior Green and Lena Gilbert. These nine and 10 year olds are students of Artist-In-Residence Michael Rios, who teaches from a grant through the California Arts Council and the S.F. Arts Commission.

The art works are displayed in 26 locations along Market Streets from the Ferry Building to Van Ness Avenue.

George Sweeney, one of the 10 year olds who worked on the group, "felt proud" to be a part of the project. "I talked to the Mayor and he told me to 'keep up the good work.'" Now George is ready to do something on his own and is thinking about an African theme.

Because her name was misspelled on the individual plaques given to each of the children, ten year old Connie Jackson was invited to Agnos' office in City Hall where the mistake was rectified. Connie said she "got extra treatment, and I met the Mayor's staff." She thinks Agnos is "cool." "I feel good about having the poster with my name on it," she said. Her grandmother will keep the plaque because "I know it will be in good hands and won't break," Connie said.

Ten year old Mister Allen introduced his "very best friend" Austin Smith to everyone who asked him about his own work. "We do a lot of things together, and we like doing art together," he said.

The kiosks were presented by the Gannett Transit Shelter who have agreed to donate \$125,000 a year from advertising revenues in the new kiosks. Under an agreement with the City, \$75,000 will fund a new neighborhood youth arts program for children ages 18 and younger, and the other \$50,000 will be placed in a fund to clean and maintain works of outdoor public art throughout the city.

Agnos proudly pointed out that the city would not be "spending taxpayer's money, and San Franciscans will benefit from beautiful new kiosks and a major new art program."

The Gannett company has promised to increase the funds by five percent annually for the next dozen years. The poster program will be administered by the Arts Commission.



Mister Allen's poster of post-earthquake San Francisco.

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Library Show Celebrates Potrero Hill's Many Artists

Despite the gloom surrounding the proposed library budget cuts, the traditional show featuring the talent of local artists opened at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th St., in April.

A reception for the artists, sponsored by the Library staff and friends of the library, was held April 19, and was attended by more than 100 Hill residents. This 36th Annual Potrero Hill Artist's show runs through May 11.

Listed below are categories of art and the participating artists. Asterisks indicate work in more than one medium.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

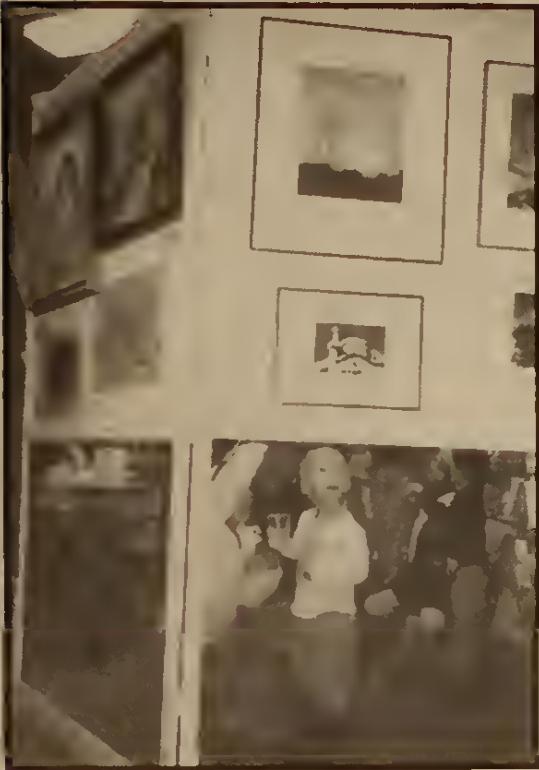
John F. Boxer, Richard Clarke, Jacques Cressaty, Bert Glenn, Ken Iljelle, Robert Holt, Kathryn Kagawa, Perry Nennig, Ying Ying Wu.

MIXED MEDIA

Philip Anasovich, Ed Aulerich-Sugai, Walter Bruszewski, Rita Giglio, Marge Hill, Rebecca Howells, Julia La Chica, Max Leiber, Lawrence T. Manuel, Henri Marie-Rose, Jean Neblett, Marion Norberg, Cathy Nyhan, Hank Osuna, Karen Richards.

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Peter Alegria, Helen Almazan-Rudnick, Ralph Anderson, Agathe Bennich, Margo Bors, Tron Bykle, John Connolly, Robert Holdeman, Virginia Irvin, Nell Jehn, Robert Kingsbury, Jim Kitson, Jan Padover, Jessica Schlocker, Sachi Tsutsumi, Pat Wipf.



"Improving the Quality of Life" — The Goal for New Potrero Captain

"I set up a police commission hearing (for residents to come and talk), and at the first meeting in the Bayview District only 20 people showed up," he added. A subsequent session in the Portola neighborhood attracted 150. Holder says he had 73 officers at the station when he arrived, and has since boosted that number up to 91. Holder seizes the opportunity for a sales pitch. "If I have community support, maybe I'll get more," he added slyly.

Holder, an 18-year veteran of the force, said he always figured he would end up in law enforcement, even though he initially attended college as a pre-med student. His mother was the first black deputy sheriff in San Francisco, and with her as his role model, he says he thought about the profession from the time he was five years old.

Holder was promoted and transferred to Potrero Station from the Muni patrol unit. His replacement in the Muni unit and former TAC squad colleague, Lt. Edward Geeter, worried whether he could fill Holder's shoes.

"I had to hesitate a full minute when the chief asked me if I could replace him," laughed Geeter. "He left the place in such excellent shape, I didn't want to come in and mess it up."

Holder has spent the better part of 14 years in dangerous, high-action positions within the Tactical Unit, now called the Headquarters Unit. From SWAT teams to bomb threats, K-9 to mounted horse patrol, and hostage rescue to crowd control, Holder has done it all. He says he enjoyed the excitement, but does not find himself bored in his new post.

"I felt there was a challenge at this station. See this?" he asked, holding up a pile of papers that threaten to steal his attention. "It never stops."

Holder's immediate goal is to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods within his station. His long-range goal is to go as far as he can on the force -- and he doesn't rule out top banana. He passed the sergeant's exam in two years, and was one of the first of two black officers to pass the SFPD lieutenant's exam. His friend and role model Cmdr. Isiah Nelson, who was killed in a

traffic accident last year, was the other officer.

"We were always watching out for each other," he said. "He had some qualities I liked, and never criticized anyone. I look at his picture every now and then to remind me to be a better person."

Holder places some very high expectations on himself, and he hasn't come up short yet. "Whenever there's a hard job to do, the department always puts me there," he said. "I think that's a compliment I can be proud of."



Capt. Rich Holder

Lester Zeidmon photo



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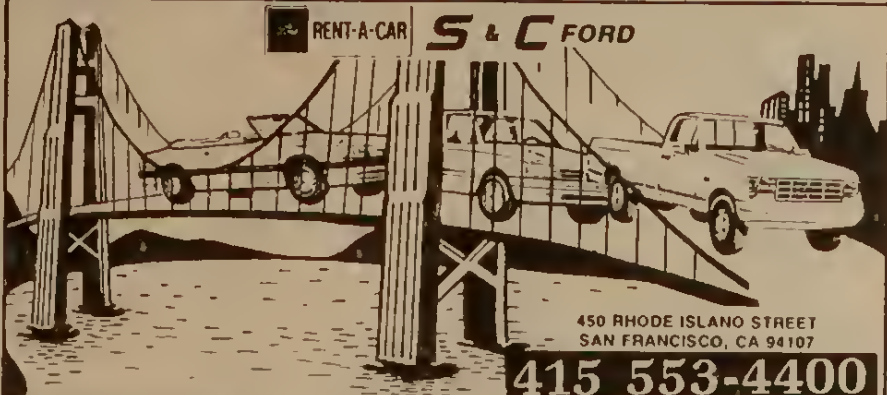
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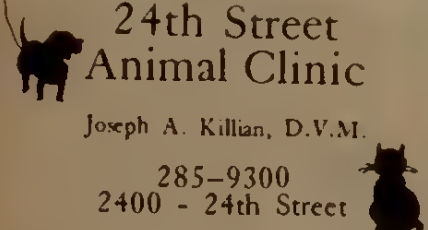
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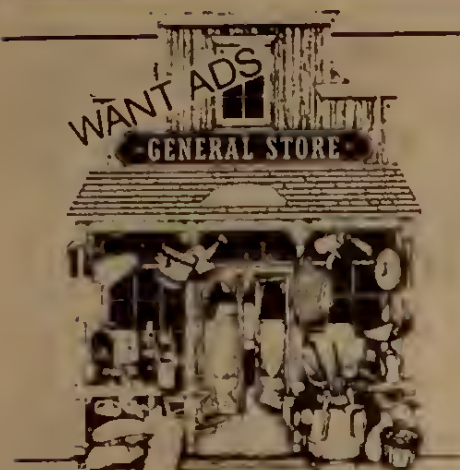
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